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and trusts of maturer years. It presents piety, free from asceticism, as the moderator of recreation no less than as the guide in duty, — as the arbiter of social intercourse no less than as the presiding spirit in the hours given ostensibly to contemplation and to God. The Society which issues and circulates such books, if under the auspices of a single denomination, is yet doing good service to the whole Church.

13. — *Selections from Modern Greek Writers, in Prose and Poetry. With Notes.* By C. C. FELTON, LL. D., Eliot Professor of Greek Literature in Harvard University. Cambridge: John Bartlett. 1856. 12mo. pp. 215.

THE first observation that suggests itself, in looking over these extracts, is, either that we have been mistaken as to the degree of corruption which the Ancient Greek has undergone during these modern centuries, or that the scholars of the present day have been marvellously successful in the endeavor to restore their language to the classical standard. We find few sentences that are not at once intelligible, and not a few in which we should hardly be aware that we were not reading an ancient author. We doubt whether any one of the languages of Modern Europe has sustained fewer changes in construction within the last five centuries, than the Greek has since the Periclean age, while none has preserved its orthography intact to a similar degree. We find it easier to read Tricoupēs than Chaucer. We can have no stronger evidence of the perfectness of the Greek as the vehicle of thought and feeling, than its virtual persistence in a dismembered nationality, and through a series of convulsions, inroads, and oppressions which would have reduced any language that could have been replaced by its equivalent to a mongrel *patois*. Professor Felton, we need not say, has given us only such selections as merit the preference accorded to them; and his notes, while they render indispensable aid in the exposition of the text, contain also several interesting *morceaux* of biography and history.

14. — *Mexico and its Religion; with Incidents of Travel in that Country during Parts of the Years 1851, '52, '53, '54, and Historical Notices of Events connected with Places visited.* By ROBERT A. WILSON. With Illustrations. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1855. 24mo. pp. 406.

THIS is the work of a man of careful observation, keen insight, and

vigorous reasoning powers. As a sketch of the Mexico of the present day it is unsurpassed, and, so far as we know, unapproached. As an exponent of the political, social, and religious horoscope of the Mexican people, the writer commands our assured confidence. As an historical critic he is bold and searching, and in the collation of testimonies with one another and with circumstantial evidences, he reminds us of the scientific scepticism of Niebuhr. He certainly demonstrates Cortez to have been as much of a braggart as a ruffian, and, by adroit cross-examination, convicts Bernal Diaz of gross mendacity. He shows little favor to Romanism, and is by no means slow in ascribing the depressed condition and retrograde tendencies of Mexican affairs to the agency of this baptized polytheism. We cannot here accuse him of prejudice. His conclusions have their more than ample basis of observed and unquestionable fact. In the Spanish American states, as nowhere else upon earth, can we study the intrinsic character and inevitable influence of the Romish doctrine and hierarchy. Here alone Protestantism has no latent hold and unacknowledged power. Here alone can the priesthood shut the floodgates so close, that the tide of advancing culture can find no sluice-way for admission. We admire our author's unscrupulous honesty in assigning to effects their only legitimate causes, and deem it immeasurably more the Christian part to lay bare, than to cloak under softened phrases, the outrages systematically perpetrated in the name of Christianity on its substance and its spirit.

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15. — *Pleasant Memories of Pleasant Lands*. By MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY. Third Edition. Boston: James Munroe & Co. 1856. 16mo. pp. 395.

It is a good sign, literary and moral, that a third edition of this book is called for. It is more than we should have expected for a work which has absolutely nothing in it that is intense, or odd, or paradoxical, nay, which has no salient points whatever. *No salient points*, we say, and in so saying we describe what is not necessarily a merit or a fault; for the prominences thus designated may be either outcroppings of genius or forthputtings of pretentious mediocrity, while the absence of them may denote either the extreme of emptiness and platitude, or that of fulness, grace, and artistical beauty. In Mrs. Sigourney it denotes the latter. Of the numerous poems in verse and poems in prose that make up this volume, we should not know how to select one or a few for special praise, nor is there one with which we should be willing to part. The pieces taken collectively are a poet's journal of a tour in Great